

E A S T E R

Act 12:4 And when he (Herod) had apprehended him (Peter), he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.

The other 'translations' of the Bible have changed the word 'Easter' to be 'Passover.'

Herod was waiting until after the Easter holiday to kill Peter.

Easter was not a Jewish feast.

It was a pagan festival that was celebrated by the Romans and other heathen cultures.

Back up to the beginning of this chapter to see how you can know that it was not the Passover.

Acts 12:1-3 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

The simple reason it couldn't be after Passover, was because Passover was already PAST.

Passover was on the 14th day of the month.

Then from the 15th day until the 21st day of the month were the 7 days of unleavened bread.

Those were 2 separate feasts for Israel.

Lev 23:4-6 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

So what then was Easter?

Pagan societies had many gods and goddesses.

The goddess of fertility was named Ishtar.

She had a son named Tammuz, who was also her lover.

He was the god of spring and rebirth.

According to tradition, Tammuz was killed by a boar.

Ishtar, his mother/lover, descended into the underworld to bring him back to life.

The spring feast celebrating the resurrection of Tammuz was called Easter, a name derived from his mother's name Ishtar.

Tammuz was said to have been reborn at the rising of the sun.

The favorite meat eaten was pork, or boar meat.

The rabbit and eggs were the symbols for fertility.

Ezek 8:14-16 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. (Maybe a sunrise service?)

God gave Israel feasts to celebrate, and in doing so, He told them not to even talk about false gods:

Exo 23:13-15 And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and **make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.**

14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Jer 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"